

WINE ENTHUSIAST THE ENTHUSIAST

100

of 2021

The most exciting wines
reviewed this year.



It's no small feat to recap a year of tasting, especially when the *Wine Enthusiast* tasting panel annually reviews upward of 22,000 wines. This year, coverage of classic regions like Napa, Bordeaux, Barolo and Rioja remained a heavy focus, and our tasters reviewed hundreds of wines from regional stalwarts and winemaking legends, with many standouts worth finding.

Yet, discovery has and always will be a part of the *Wine Enthusiast* ethos. We left no stone unturned to find tasty bottles from unique spots like the volcanic slopes of Mount Etna in Sicily, the wilderness of the Vayots Dzor province of Armenia, a burgeoning wine region in Uruguay and locales with historic vines in California's Central Coast.

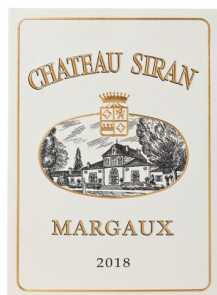
We enjoyed wines from producers both large and small—those that follow con-

ventional winemaking practices and those that pursue low-intervention winemaking. We reveled in classically structured Brunello and geeked out over amphora-aged Montepulciano d'Abruzzo. We enjoyed the sublime ease of crisp, fruity rosé and waxed poetic about traditional-method sparklers.

Clearly, this year brought many things to be excited about. All this enthusiasm culminates in our ultimate list of the year: The Enthusiast 100.

The selections on this roster speak to the epic diversity that can be found in the wine world, with an eye toward score and price to make sure you get the best bang for your buck. At the number one spot sits a bottle of Margaux from a historic chateau that hits the trifecta of high quality, accessible price and wide availability (while stocks last). Many more gems abound, so read on to discover what bottles filled our wine-loving souls to the brim this year.

1



95 **Château Siran 2018 Margaux.** From an estate in the southern part of Margaux, this wine has just the right mix of rich tannins and taut black-currant flavors to give upfront freshness and potential for further aging. Structured and fruity, it should be drunk from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

2



95 **Bucci 2019 Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore.** This gorgeous white opens with enticing aromas of Mediterranean herb, yellow spring flower, eucalyptus and citrus. The delicious palate delivers juicy yellow peach, fennel, white almond and the barest hint of grapefruit alongside tangy acidity. A mineral note suggesting saline adds depth. It's an absolutely phenomenal showing. Empson USA Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

3



97 **Iron Horse 2017 Wedding Cuvée Estate Bottled Sparkling Wine (Green Valley).** Combining 73% Pinot Noir and 27% Chardonnay, this beautiful sparkling wine tastes of brioche, fresh-picked strawberry and blood orange. It is rich and generous yet balanced on the palate, finishing on refreshing accents of slate and oyster shell. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

4



93 **The Eyrie Vineyards 2019 Estate Pinot Gris (Dundee Hills).** The tawny gold color belies the youth of this wine, and sure enough it's moved ahead on the aging curve to where it is already in a prime drinking window. Full-bodied, chewy and tannic, it's a potent wine with an assortment of herb, citrus and tree fruit elements all in a pleasing tangle. Drink through 2030. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

5



97 **G D Vajra 2017 Ravera (Barolo).** From the township of Novello and from what is now widely recognized as one of the denomination's top vineyard sites, this stunning wine offers intense aromas of wild berry, new leather, flowers, camphor and grilled herb. The delicious, structured palate shows finesse and power, featuring ripe red cherry, blood orange, cedar, licorice and iron while noble tannins provide support. Reflecting the vintage, this won't need years to come around but will also age well for at least another decade. Drink 2022–2032. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

6

95 **Turnbull 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This is a blockbuster of a wine, especially at the price, opening with a violet aroma on the nose and a moderately grippy texture on the palate. Beautiful black- and red-cherry, currant and baking-spice elements combine around a core of classic elegance and length, finishing on a cigar box accent. The fruit is from four estate sites. Consider buying caseloads. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

7

96 **Collosorbo 2016 Brunello di Montalcino.** Balsamic aromas of camphor and cedar align with ripe plum, underbrush and new leather in this full-bodied red. On the concentrated, enveloping palate, tightly knit, fine-grained tannins accompany ripe Marasca cherry, blood orange, vanilla and licorice before a tobacco close. Fresh acidity lifts the dense richness. Drink 2024–2036. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

8



93 **Chambers Rosewood Vineyards NV Muscat (Rutherglen).** Chambers is a benchmark producer of the Rutherglen style and this late-picked Muscat offers a burnt-orange-sunset hue in the glass, with a green rim. Evoking enticing aromas of orange marmalade, honey, medjool dates and almond blossom, the palate continues along similar lines. Unctuous and intensely sweet, there's just enough acidity keep this from syrup territory. It would benefit enormously from a creamy, salty cheese pairing. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 19% **Price:** \$16/375 ml

9

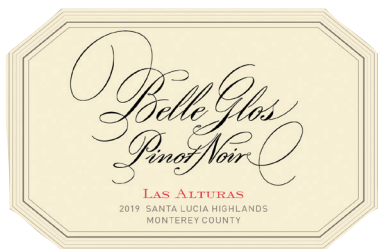


93 **Diora 2019 La Splendeur du Soleil Chardonnay (Monterey).** Excellently presented aromas of butter, nectarine, warm almond and white flower are delicate but expressive on the nose of this bottling. An immediate acidity races through the palate, lifting the toasty and buttery elements while pairing smartly against the ripe citrus and white flower elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

10

98 **Domaine de la Janasse 2019 Chaupin (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** This Grenache is sourced from the sandy soils of two prized vineyards, La Janasse and La Crau. Redolent of rose petals, smoky tea leaves and black cherry, the deeply penetrating wine pulsates through a long, long finish. Matured 12 months in large-format wood, it's pure in fruit and satiny on the palate. Stunning young, the wine should gain complexity through at least 2040 and hold much further still. European Cellars. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$88

11



96 **Belle Glos 2019 Las Alturas Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Firm lines of graphite and loamy earth streak through the opulent aromas of black plum and dried violet on the nose of this brooding Pinot Noir. The palate is a whirlwind of exuberance, as leathery tannins wrap around more graphite minerality, dried violet and lavender, with stewed plum and a touch of bittersweet cocoa on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$55

12



96 **Massican 2020 Annia (Napa Valley).** Dan Petroski's perennially delightful blend of 61% Tocai Friulano, 27% Ribolla Gialla and 12% Chardonnay from Hyde Vineyard stands out in its melding of floral, grippy composure and earthy intensity. Lemon candy, peach and white flower combine around ethereal accents of salt and slate. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

13

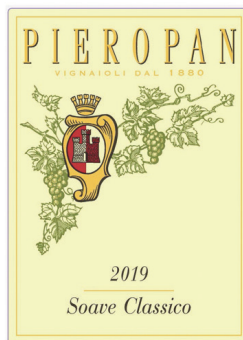


95 **Te Mata 2019 Estate Vineyards Syrah (Hawkes Bay).** Te Mata's estate Syrah is once again a lucid, approachable beauty. This vintage is more layered than the previous one, unraveling flavors and textures. First, bright cherry and plum arise, then graphite, savory herbs and flowers chime in. The palate is linear and taut, with leathery tannins, crisp acidity and tart fruit. There's a savory edge to the finish. It's a serious yet highly drinkable Syrah, especially when paired with roast lamb. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

14

100 **Ramey 2018 Rochioli Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** This wine is a testament to an outstanding site in the hands of an outstanding producer. It is a celebration of fresh Meyer lemon and Gravenstein apple woven against an elegant structure and quenching acidity. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

15



94 **Pieropan 2019 Soave Classico.** Fragrant and delicious, this opens with heady aromas of white spring flower, citrus and tropical fruit. Vibrant and tangy, the savory palate doles out juicy grapefruit, white peach and lemon drop before a saline mineral finish. Bright acidity keeps it crisp and balanced. LUX Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 12% Price: \$24

16

95 **Ridgecrest 2020 Estate Dry Riesling (Ribbon Ridge).** From the first vineyard planted in the AVA comes this sappy, complex, multifaceted wine. The layers, textures and accents are seemingly endless. Minerals, citrus, mint, anise, apple, jicama, lemon oil—the list goes on and on. It's a wine that takes a deep dive and just keeps on going. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$24

17

95 **Birichino 2019 Besson Vineyard Old Vines Grenache (Central Coast).** The winery's study of this 110-year-old, dry-farmed vineyard keeps getting better each vintage. Aromas of fresh red currant and raspberry are lifted by chaparral, gravel and turned earth on the nose. There's an herbal grip to the palate, as a rocky structure frames red currant, crumpled carnation and rose tea flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

18

95 **Abbazia di Novacella 2019 Praepositus Kerner (Alto Adige Valle Isarco).** This gorgeous white opens with aromas of smoke, ripe yellow stone fruit, alpine herb and a hint of spice. Full-bodied and elegant, the dry, delicious palate has a great depth of flavor, including apricot, yellow pear, white pepper and flinty mineral. Crisp acidity restrains the rich flavors. Drink through 2027. Abbazia di Novacella USA. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$29

19

95 **Lieu Dit 2019 Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley).** It would be easy to mistake this herbally complex, texturally taut and tantalizingly fresh Cabernet Franc for a Loire Valley bottling, which is the inspiration. Aromas of just-ripe boysenberry, green tobacco and wet rocks lead into a tightly woven palate full of crunchy cranberry, chaparral shrubs and lingering carnation. Beware: Bottle empties easily. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

20

93 Forstreiter 2019 Ried Kremser Kogl Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). Yeast and salty miso are the chief notions on the nose. The palate adds pepper and a wonderfully vivid, slight spritz to the slender but concentrated body while lemon brightness highlights the purity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —A.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

21

96 Rivetto 2019 Vigna Lirano (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Made with certified organic and biodynamic farming methods and vinified in terra-cotta amphorae, this luminous Nebbiolo has compelling aromas of ripe red fruit, tilled earth, violet and camphor. The focused, delicious palate has a pristine quality, doling out fresh red berries, white pepper, star anise and a dollop of vanilla alongside taut, polished tannins. Bright acidity keeps it balanced, while a saline mineral note lingers on the savory finish. Enjoy now or hold for more complexity. Drink through 2031. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

22

94 Stolpman 2019 Para Maria de Los Tecolotes (Santa Barbara County). This affordable blend of 80% Syrah and 20% Petit Verdot always impresses. Expertly captured aromas of berry juice, pepper and thyme are savory yet soft on the nose. The palate is tense in structure but ripe in fleshy dark-red-fruit flavors, all elevated by touches of cracked pepper and lavender. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$22

23



93 St. Amant 2019 Mohr-Fry Ranch Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). Silky and elegant but full-bodied, this wine gently carries concentrated, rich black and red fruits on an ultrasmooth texture. Fine-grained tannins add some grip on the palate without interrupting the enticing flow of this luscious wine. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$20

24

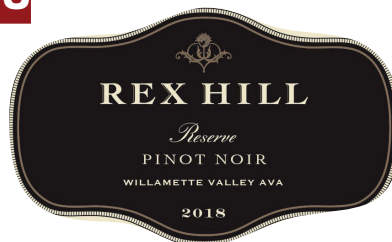
96 Gernot and Heike Heinrich 2017 Blaufränkisch (Leithaberg). A touch of smoky incense clings to the dark but crunchy cherry fruit on the nose. The palate comes in with both freshness and a lively cherry-fruited juiciness that just seems to underline the ripeness of it all. The tannins are supple and smooth, while the bright acidity illuminates everything to pure elegance. Craft+Estate-Winebow. —A.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$45

25



94 Stella Bella 2019 Chardonnay (Margaret River). This wine is part wild fermented and whole bunch pressed. It takes a minute to reveal its charms, but when it does, it offers a perfume of lemon curd, orange water and flowers flecked with salted, toasted nuts. The palate is slinky and slippery in texture, with crystalline acidity, tangy fruit and a mineral streak. Drink now–2029. M Imports, LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$35

26



96 Rex Hill 2018 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Rich, spicy and flat-out delicious, this outstanding wine delivers sweet barrel spices in abundance alongside a generous mix of red, blue and black berries. The barrel aging is spot-on, and there's a wash of bacon as it fades. The immediate flavor impact, coupled with its overall power and concentration, elevate it to such a high ranking. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$58

27

95 Drew 2018 The Field Blend Red (Mendocino Ridge). This quietly impressive wine wraps superfine tannins around deep, haunting flavors that range from ginger-spice cookies to cooked blueberries, new leather and dark chocolate. It's big in terms of flavor impact, but the wine itself is just medium to full bodied, and offers a silky, polished texture that's hard to resist. Best from 2024. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$32

28

93 Skouras 2019 George Skouras Moschofilero (Arcadia). This Moschofilero starts with a rich, fragrant nose of jasmine and rose, but its flavors are poised and pert in style, with a spin of bone-dry acid framing its refined citrus and spice flavors. A beautiful example of the variety's versatility and character. Diamond Importers Inc. —S.K.
abv: 12% Price: \$18

29



94 Ca' dei Zago 2020 Rifermentato in Bottiglia (Valdobbiadene Prosecco). Refermented in bottle, this bone-dry, lightly sparkling wine offers enticing scents of citrus, spice and bread dough. One of the very best of the *col fondo*, or *metodo ancestrale* versions, the wine has a savory, racy palate that delivers lime, orange zest, fennel seed and ginger before a tangy mineral close suggesting oyster shell. Vibrant acidity gives it intriguing tension and energy. Ethica Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 11% Price: \$30

30

95 Big Basin 2018 Wirz Vineyard Old Vine Carignan (Cienega Valley). Supervibrant, fresh and crunchy aromas of cranberry, crisp cherry and wild forest show on the nose of this bottling from vines that are more than 90 years old. The 87% whole-cluster treatment enhances the palate's tense structure, which frames rustic but lovable flavors of wild red fruit and crumpled red and purple flowers. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$41

31

93 Anselmo Mendes 2020 Contacto Alvarinho (Vinho Verde). Born and bred in the Minho Valley, Anselmo Mendes finds close ties with the region's native grape, Alvarinho. This skin-contact wine brings out a rich, textured side to the variety. It is ripe, dense and full of rich citrus flavors. Drink from 2022. Grape2Glass. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

32



93 Francesco Cirelli 2018 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo. Freshly pressed blackberries, cherries and cranberries take on earthy elements of crushed herbs and gravel in this amphora-aged Montepulciano. There's a polished, supple feel to the berry fruit on the medium-bodied palate, with streaks of crushed mineral and earthy spice lending depth. The finish lingers long on a bright cherry-skin note. Zev Rovine Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —A.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$22

33



95 Hartford Court 2018 Land's Edge Vineyards Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). From two vineyard sites just a few miles from the Pacific Ocean, this wine is juicy in cranberry and pomegranate. Lifted accents of white pepper, orange peel and rose add complexity and nuance to the robust frame. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$50

34



93 Surrau 2020 Branu (Vermentino di Gallura). This savory, enticing white will transport you to the seaside thanks to aromas that recall Mediterranean brush, white spring wildflowers, a sea breeze and a warm, sandy beach. On the delicious palate, tangy acidity accompanies ripe white peach, lemon drop candy and saline. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

35

93 Domaine de l'Espigouette 2018 Vieilles Vignes (Côtes du Rhône). Violets and char perfume this elevated Côtes du Rhône made from a blend of Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. Blackberry and black-cherry flavors are ripe but pure, accented by hints of graphite and a delicately smoky, peppery edge. Silky on the palate and framed by a rim of salt, it's delicious young but likely to hold well through 2028 at least. Serge Doré Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

36

95 Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2018 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis). Struck flint and salty mineral tones accent this ripe yet gorgeously smoky white. Fermented via indigenous yeast and matured entirely in stainless steel, the translucent wine is bolstered by voluminous richness. Held upright by tangs of lemon and steel, this chalk-edged wine is approachable young but will likely hit peak from 2023 to 2028 and hold further. Banville Wine Merchants. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$46

37

97 Julien Cécillon 2018 Saint Pierre (Cornas). It takes just a whiff to know there's something deeply special about this truffy, intensely blackberried Syrah sourced from organic grapes. It's powerfully ripe, bursting at the seams with cassis and black cherry flavors, and sumptuous in texture, but delightfully nuanced too, etched by shards of granite and earth, dried flowers and smoky, meaty charcuterie. Freshly balanced and ethereal in minerality, it's stunning young but should improve well through 2040. The Wine Trust. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$85

38

95 Domaine Laporte 2019 Le Grand Rochoy (Sancerre). This wine is full of powerful white fruits that are densely textured and concentrated. The fruits bring a mineral texture that adds to the richness and complex structure. The wine will age further, so drink from 2022. Martine's Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

39

95 Ettore Germano 2017 Extra Brut (Alta Langa). All about creamy elegance and flavor, this gorgeous sparkler has enticing scents that recall field flowers, white stone fruit, sun-warmed hay and a hint of citrus. On the dry, delicious palate, an extremely refined perlage accompanies ripe yellow apple, white peach and juicy white grapefruit before closing on a hint of hazelnut. Sussex Wine Merchants. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 13% Price: \$45

40

94 Graci 2018 Rosso (Etna). Wild rose, perfumed berries, Mediterranean brush and graphite are just some of the aromas you'll find in this elegant, fragrant red. Radiant and loaded with finesse and mineral tension, the palate delivers juicy strawberry, red cherry, star anise and wild herbs framed by taut, refined tannins. Saline notes and racy acidity keep it energized. Drink through 2030. Massanois Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

41

93 Husch 2019 Estate Bottled Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Elegant and luxuriously smooth, this finely balanced wine pairs ripe and round black-cherry and spice flavors with tangy underlying acidity for great balance. Mild tannins add to the sense of palate-cleansing freshness and help create a lingering finish. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$25

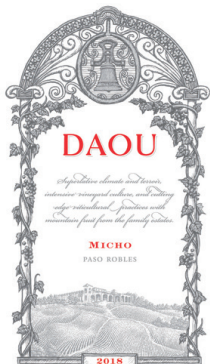
42

93 Best's 2018 Bin No 1 Shiraz (Great Western). From one of Australia's most treasured estates, this cool-climate Shiraz from western Victoria is a little meaty and mushroomy at first, the plum and currant fruit trailing just behind. It has cola-like polish from the oak influence and an underbelly of flowers and spices. Despite the fruit plushness on the palate, there's still verve, freshness and a smudged charcoal texture to the powerful tannins. Drink now–2025. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

43

94 Castello dei Rampolla 2018 Chianti Classico. Black-skinned fruit, new leather, tilled earth and blue flower aromas mingle with camphor in this fragrant, enticing red. Fresh and savory, the elegant, full-bodied palate doles out ripe black plum, juicy Morello cherry, licorice and tobacco alongside polished tannins that give it a velvety texture. Fresh acidity lends brightness and balance. Drink 2022–2028. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$37

44



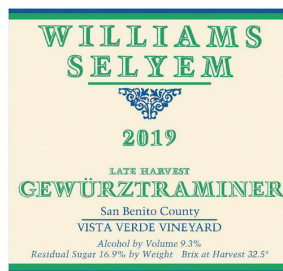
96 Daou 2018 Micho (Paso Robles). This blend of 67% Merlot and 33% Cabernet Sauvignon booms with aromas of dark blackberry, fudge and mint. The complexity carries into the palate, where more cocoa and dark berry flavors

are wrapped in refined yet structuring tannins, with acidity driving down the middle. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

45

93 Hosmer 2019 Limited Release Riesling (Cayuga Lake). Concentrated tones of apple, white grapefruit, citrus perfume and peach make for a deep well of aromas on the nose. There's real depth to the palate, where a gentle, pithy texture is lifted by juicy pome and stone fruit. It has an almost oily feel, yet that texture is quickly put to rest by the pervasive drive of the zesty acidity. It's one to sip, savor and, if you can, cellar. Drink now–2030. **Editors' Choice.** —A.P.
abv: 11.3% Price: \$25

46



94 Williams Selyem 2019 Vista Verde Vineyard Late Harvest Gewürztraminer (San Benito County). This ambrosial nectar is fascinatingly delicious every vintage. Aromas of jasmine tea, honey, tuberose, tangerine peel and the slightest hint of earthy funk lead into a viscous yet acid-washed palate. It dazzles in flavors of jasmine, lemongrass, makrut lime and mango custard. —M.K.
abv: 9.3% Price: \$40

47

94 Meyer-Näkel 2018 Pinot Noir (Ahr). An exhilarating mineral crush extends from nose to palate, lending freshness to profoundly ripe flavors of black plum and currant. Full-bodied yet spry and lifted, it's a piercing, deeply concentrated Pinot Noir edged by hints of earth, smoke and violet. The finish is long and ruffled by fine, furry tannins. It's welcoming in youth but structured enough to improve through 2030. The German Wine Collection. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

48

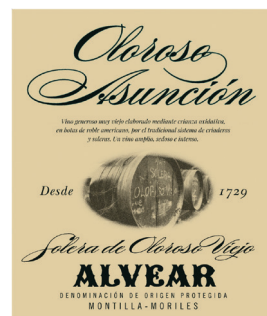
96 Walter Scott 2019 X-Novo Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). This offers palate-piercing flavors of bitter herb, lemon zest, grapefruit, apple and green melon. It's compact and extremely youthful. The details and

accents that lie within must be teased out with extra aeration. It's aromatic and inviting, showing just a little of the impact of aging in some new barrels. Drink from 2024–2034. —P.G.
abv: 13% Price: \$85

49

93 Château Gaudrelle 2018 Clos le Vigneau (Vouvray). Produced by Alexandre Monmousseau, scion of a distinguished local family, this wine is ripe, full-bodied and splendidly rich. Just getting ready to drink, the wine is generous and full of dried apple and peach flavors. Good now, it will age well, certainly until 2025. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$26

50



93 Alvear NV Oloroso Asunción (Montilla-Moriles). A burnished orange-meets-tawny color and lively aromas of caramel and apricot get this oloroso off to a fine start. A richly intense palate with bold acidity offers plenty of depth, while toasty flavors of coffee and walnuts finish with notes of chocolate and café latte. Overall, this is stylish and a cut above. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.
abv: 19% Price: \$30/375 ml

51

93 Januik 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The aromas are brooding, with notes of coffee, cherry, vanilla and sweet spices. Layered, rich, intense chocolate and cherry flavors follow. It's hedonism in a glass, with plenty of structure to support it all. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$30

52



92 Michael David 2019 Freakshow Red Blend (Lodi). Superdark fruit flavors, moderate tannins and a velvety texture add up to an indulgent experience in this full-bodied wine. It delivers deliciousness with good balance, from its inky color to saturated black-cherry and blueberry flavors to a lingering finish. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 15% Price: \$20

53



92 Bec Hardy 2019 Pertaringa Lakeside Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia). This rose-colored South Aussie Cab delivers in a big way. It opens with bright, lucid aromas of red berry, baking spice, tree bark and flowers. The tannins are well-integrated, soft yet present, gently tugging on the fruit, which gets a lift from the crunchy acidity. It's a modern, medium-weight Aussie Cab that should be a weeknight staple. Mack & Schuhle Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

54

94 Château Latour-Martillac 2018 White (Pessac-Léognan). Rich with great fruits and structure, this wood-aged wine brings out the crisp texture of Sauvignon Blanc while having a creamy character and light toastiness. The wine is ready to age, so wait until 2023. Joanne Bordeaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$48

55

95 Venge 2018 Kenefick Ranch Vineyard Merlot (Calistoga). This is a dense, chewy and complex vineyard-designate wine, adorned in black olive, iron, plum and cherry fruit. Structured tannins give it additional power and a framework upon which to build a balanced outcome. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$75

56

94 Julien Schaal 2020 Granite Brand Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). Intense aromas of sour peach and grapefruit gummies rise out of the glass, promising fun and sophistication in equal measure. The palate offers more of that lush, juicy, pleasantly bitter fruit, along with wet slate and wet grass. It all fits together with a rich texture that gives the wine character and ambiance—think citrus fruit on a rainy day. Distinctive Domaines. —L.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$50

57

93 Stags' Leap Winery 2019 Viognier (Napa Valley). Honeycomb and slate greet the nose first in this dry, crisp and lengthy white wine, moderate in viscosity and ripeness. Lovely notes of apricot follow around a tease of honeysuckle and white flower. It's impressive through the focused finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$32

58

92 José Maria da Fonseca 2018 José de Sousa Red (Alentejano). Partially fermented in amphorae before wood aging, this wine has great richness and a fine open structure. It offers ripe tannins, generous black fruits and firm structure. Drink from 2022. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$19

59

92 Feudi di San Gregorio 2020 Fiano di Avellino. Linear and bone-dry, this lovely white opens with delicate aromas recalling ripe yellow apple, chamomile and acacia honey. The savory palate features ripe Bartlett pear, nutmeg and Meyer lemon alongside saline mineral notes and bright acidity. Terlato Wines International. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

60



91 Angels & Cowboys 2020 Rosé (Sonoma County). Made from Grenache, this wine is light in color with an inviting, floral nose. Bright, zesty hits of grapefruit and tangerine dance around a svelte midpalate of focused acidity and lasting freshness. —V.B.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

61



95 Corazon del Sol 2017 Gran Reserva Revana Vineyard Malbec (Los Chacayes). An opaque purple color along with heady aromas of blackberry, cassis, black olive and rubber unveil this Malbec's power, balance and complexity. A deep palate is layered and supple, while this tastes of cured meat, licorice and black fruits. A smooth and lasting finish is silky and refined, with grip but no bite; enjoy this voluptuous Uco Valley Malbec through 2028. Revana Family Partners. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

62

93 Textura Wines 2018 Textura da Estrela White (Dão). This wood-aged wine is rich with spice and toastiness as well as generous white fruits. A full blend dominated by Encruzado and Bical, it has apple and grapefruit flavors that are softening well. It will be ready from 2022. JD Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$34

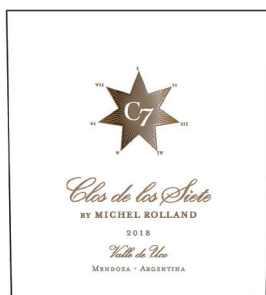
63

94 **Devison 2019 Above the Flood (Columbia Valley).** This is a blend of Grenache (48%), Syrah (34%) and Mourvèdre (18%), coming from top sites that include Yakima Valley stalwart Boushey Vineyard. The aromas leap out of the glass, with notes of orange rind, flower, marionberry, blueberry, iron and smoked meat, showing a lot of range and complexity. Full-bodied flavors coat the palate from end to end, with the fruit front and center. A long finish caps it off. It's flat out delicious, with the enjoyment as much about feel as flavor. Give it an extended decant if drinking in the near term and drink it cool to see it at its best. It will have many years of great drinking in front of it. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$54

64



92 **Clos de los Siete 2018 By Michel Rolland Red (Uco Valley).** Clos de los Siete almost never fails, and this version from a ripe and easy vintage is just that: ripe and easy. Inky blackberry and black currant aromas show a waft of campfire creosote, while this feels big and round, with plenty of mouth-blackening fruit. Oak-aided blackberry, cassis and chocolate flavors come with a hint of herbs, while the finish is smooth and mild. Drink through 2023. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$20

65

95 **Alonso del Yerro 2016 María (Ribera del Duero).** Smooth, lightly creamy aromas of blackberry and cassis are softened and sweetened by pastry notes, making this superb Tinto Fino smell mature beyond its years. On the palate, this is focused and acid-driven, with a familiar combination of blackberry, cassis and toasty oak flavors. The finish is slightly dry and tannic, so give this plenty of air if drinking now or hold through 2032. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

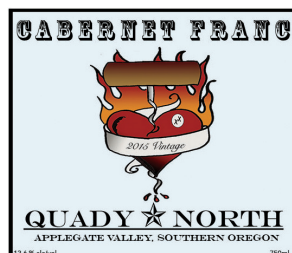
66

95 **Casa Ferreirinha 2017 Quinta da Leda Red (Douro).** The wine comes from a quinta in the Douro Superior that forms part of the blend for the iconic Barca Velha wine. This wine shows the same pedigree and richness, with a beautiful balance and restraint. The black fruits are still vivid and need to soften further into the concentrated tannins. This is a wine for serious aging and should not be drunk before 2024. Evaton, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$75

67



93 **Quady North 2015 Cabernet Franc (Applegate Valley).** This red is aged in one-quarter new French oak and given extra bottle age prior to release. Ripe plum and cherry fruit is swathed in svelte tannins and accented with highlights of cocoa and coffee. There's a teasing whiff of tobacco threading through the finish. —P.G.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$35

68



92 **Tasca d'Almerita 2020 Tenuta Regaleali Leone White Blend (Terre Siciliane).** Heady aromas of citrus, yellow stone fruit and Mediterranean scrub are front and center on this lovely white. A blend of Catarratto, Pinot Bianco, Sauvignon, Traminer Aromatico and Moscato, the bright, savory palate features juicy peach, ripe pear, orange zest and fennel seed alongside crisp acidity. Trincheri Family Estates. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

69



92 **SJ Montigny 2017 Kreuznacher St. Martin Gewürztraminer Spätlese (Nahe).** Rose petals, white peaches and lychees extend from nose to finish in this exceptionally light-footed, perfumed Gewürztraminer. Medium-sweet in style, it's exhilarating and fresh, with a pert spine of lemon-lime acidity and a lingering veil of sweetness on the finish. It drinks gorgeously young but should maintain peak through 2026. Wein Bauer Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.

abv: 9%

Price: \$20

70



92 **Parducci 2019 True Grit Reserve Petite Sirah (Mendocino).** The deep, inky color of this full-bodied and tannic wine is a good indicator of how intense and concentrated its blackberry, blueberry and charcoal flavors are. Quite firm and gripping in texture, this impressive beast will age almost indefinitely. Best to enjoy from 2027. —J.G.

abv: 15%

Price: \$30

71



92 **Herdade do Esporão 2020 Reserva White (Alentejo).** A blend of Antão Vaz, Arinto and Roupeiro, this wood-aged wine is spicy and ripe in toast and yellow-fruit flavors. It is still young and needs some aging. Wait to drink this rich wine from 2022. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

72

92 Deep Down 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This new label was cofounded by Clive Dougall, former longtime winemaker at acclaimed biodynamic estate, Seresin. This single-vineyard project takes a more natural, minimal approach from the winemaking front. Pale gold in color, it smells of honey, fresh butter, damp hay, stone, waxy lemon, pineapple, wild flowers and herbs. The palate is long and textural, playing quite beautifully with the prickly acidity. Vintage '59 Imports. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$21

73

93 Vik 2017 Milla Cala Millahue (Cachapoal Valley). Briary blackberry and cassis aromas include familiar Chilean notes of eucalyptus and juniper. This Cabernet Sauvignon-dominant blend is ripe and creamy in feel, with generous flavors of brown sugar, herbs, blackberry, cassis, coffee and chocolate. The finish is chewy and rich. Drink now–2025. Guarachi Wine Partners. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45

74



CAMPAGNA FINANZIATA AI SENSI
DEL REG. UE N. 1308/2013
CAMPAIGN FINANCED ACCORDING
TO EU REG. NO. 1308/2013

95 Ferrari 2012 Perlé Nero Extra Brut Riserva (Trento). Radiant, polished and utterly delicious, this divine sparkler hits all the right buttons. Made entirely with Pinot Nero, it has delicate but alluring aromas of white stone fruit, wild berry, yellow spring flower and brioche. The dry, creamy palate is chock full of finesse, delivering delicate layers of white peach, pomegranate, apple and bread crust alongside a silky perlage. Bright acidity keeps it balanced. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

75



92 Ottella 2020 Le Creete (Lugana). Aromas of elderflower, citrus and tropical fruit lead the nose. Tangy and savory, the vibrant palate offers grapefruit, gooseberry and pineapple before a saline finish. Lyra Wine. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.

abv: 13%

Price: \$27

76



94 Ayala 2015 Le Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). In keeping with its house style, this is a dry brut. It brings out freshness, tight crispness and taut minerality. The Champagne demands some further aging to soften its vibrant edge. Drink from 2022. Vintus LLC. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$90

77

92 Jean Loron 2019 Château de Fleurie (Fleurie). From vines belonging to the Loron and Barbet families, this is a rich, structured wine. It is beautifully perfumed, juicy with blackberry flavors and lifted acidity. Firm tannins under all this fruitiness promise aging. Drink from 2022. David Bowler Wine. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$22

78

92 Silkman 2018 Semillon (Hunter Valley). This bottling presents the iconic Aussie style of Sémillon. Citrus zest, pineapple, white spice and honeysuckle characteristics melt into a waxy mouthfeel on the medium- to full-bodied palate. Zippy acidity and tangy citrus and spice

notes linger on the finish. Clocking in at under 12% alcohol, the wine offers food-friendly drinking now, with the capability to age into a more complex creature through 2025. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$23

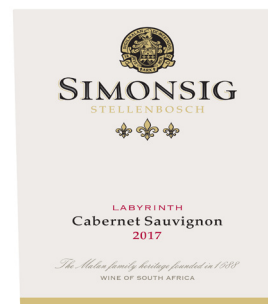
79

91 Hampton Water 2020 Rosé (Languedoc). Lovely top notes of peony and baby's breath grace the bouquet of this rosé, with supporting notes of ripe melon, white cherry and strawberry at the core. The palate is medium in weight but well balanced, with a sweet orange flavor and bright acidic thread that keeps the momentum moving from the fruit-fueled palate to the vibrant, refreshing finish. USA Wine West. —L.B.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$23

80



92 Simonsig 2017 Labyrinth Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch). Pomegranate, currant and cherry skin form the bouquet of this slightly shy wine, which is just waiting for a bit more time to come into its own. Glimmers of turned soil, tobacco leaf and licorice add earthy interest to the fruit tones. The palate is medium-plus in weight, with plush yet structuring tannins that softly frame the fleshier fruit flavors. Ample acidity keeps it all in check and lends a slight vibrancy to the finish. Drink 2025–2031. Quint-essential Wines. —L.B.

abv: 14%

Price: \$23

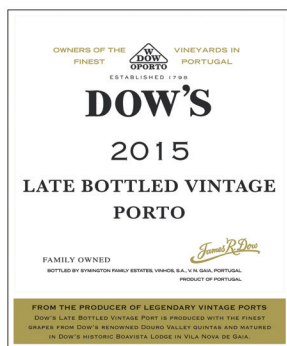
81

95 Louis Jadot 2019 Clos de la Barre Monopole Premier Cru (Volnay). Lifted and blossomy on the nose, this full-bodied, powerful Pinot Noir balances rich blackberry and raspberry flavors with an earthen, smoky minerality. Full and rounded on the palate but braced by a zesty peel of acidity, it's a bold yet stately expression of an exceptionally ripe vintage in Volnay. At peak 2024–2035. Kobrand. —A.I.

abv: 14%

Price: \$96

82



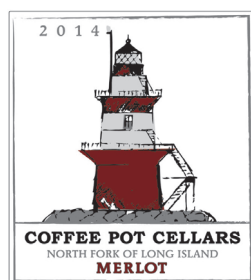
92 Dow's 2015 Late Bottled Vintage Port. With the dryness typical of this producer, this is a densely textured Port that will certainly age well. It has great structure as well as dark fruits that have blackberry jelly flavors. This LBV can be drunk now, but it will surely benefit from the few more months until 2022. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 20% Price: \$25

83



91 Dr. Loosen 2019 Red Slate Dry Riesling (Mosel). Sunbaked slate and dusty earth tones introduce this spry, spice-tinged Riesling. Dry and focused yet not at all stern in style, it offsets its mineral intensity with pristine lemon and white peach flavors. A thirst-quenching, elegant wine that's best now–2024. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 12% Price: \$18

84



92 Coffee Pot Cellars 2014 Merlot (North Fork of Long Island). Aromas of graphite and crushed herbs lend a linear, driven feel to the nose, yet there's plenty of generosity by way of black currant and plum at the core. The medium-bodied palate shows a delightful mix of taut dark-berry fruit balanced by accents of graphite and sage. While enjoyable now, this has the structure

and stuffing to last through 2028. **Editors' Choice.** —A.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$24

85



92 Tenet 2018 The Pundit Syrah (Columbia Valley). This wine is a partnership between Chateau Ste. Michelle and famed French producer Michel Gassier and consultant Philippe Cambie. The aromas are expressive, with notes of huckleberry, flower and earth. Palate-staining flavors follow, showing richness, depth and, most of all, balance and texture. It's outright delicious, a mouthful of a wine and a big-time value. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

86

92 Château Lamartine 2018 Cuvée Particulière (Cahors). This is a ripe, polished wine. Wood aging brings a perfumed character to the bold black fruits from old vines. The wine has heft and richness while keeping a succulent character. This estate is situated in the west of the Cahors appellation on the north bank of the Lot River. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

87



93 Cesari 2016 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico. New leather, truffle, menthol and baked plum aromas slowly emerge on this inviting, full-bodied red. Smooth and savory, the velvety palate doles out fleshy black cherry, fig, tobacco and licorice alongside polished, enveloping tannins. Drink through 2028. Opici Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 15% Price: \$55

88

92 Walla Walla Vintners 2019 Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). The aromas offer immediate appeal, with notes of milk chocolate, dried herb, raspberry, tea leaf and pencil lead. The

flavors are sumptuous, with the tannins giving a light grip. Chocolate notes linger on the finish. It's a classic Walla Walla Vintners-style Merlot, with the brightness and clarity of the vintage along with undeniable appeal. Decant if drinking in the near term. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$30

89

92 Colomé 2018 Estate Malbec (Salta). In this wine, a saturated dark color and potent aromas of blackberry, prune and grainy oak lead to a deeply layered palate that's lush and dense. Herbal blackberry, cassis and chocolate flavors are fully ripe, while this Malbec holds onto its packed-fruit character on a long finish with a touch of heat. Drink through 2025. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.S.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$25

90



91 Château de Berne 2020 Inspiration Rosé (Côtes de Provence). Aging on the lees has allowed this wine to have depth and ripe concentration, which contrast well with the bright red-berry flavors and spicy, tight aftertaste. Drink now for best enjoyment. Provence Rose Group. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

91



92 Marqués de Murrieta 2017 Reserva Finca Ygay (Rioja). Lightly baked and leathery berry aromas are subtle. This wine is racy and clipping on the palate, with popping acidity. Spiced plum and cherry flavors are backed by oaky vanilla prior to a persistent finish with classic Rioja notes of oak, tomato and bright acidity. Drink now–2030. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$29

92



92 Avalanche 2019 Fendant (Valais). This wine is straw colored, with aromas of orange blossom, jasmine, lemon-lime zest and roasted yellow pepper, with whiffs of petrol and tomato leaf. Bright on entry and in the mouth, it is well balanced, with flavors of orange pith, mango, yellow cherry and fresh oregano. The finish is pleasantly acidic and persistent. Laine Boswell Selections. —J.J.

abv: 12%

Price: \$25

93

92 Perinet 2016 Merit (Priorat). Broad berry and plum aromas are schisty in accordance with Priorat norms. This blend of Garnacha, Carignan, Merlot and Syrah is bold and a touch fiery on the palate. Loud berry and plum flavors finish with steady power and complexity. Enjoy through 2025. Tolosa Winery. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$28

94

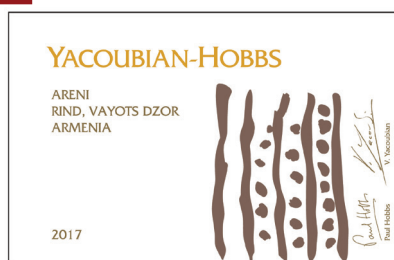


92 Grosgrain 2020 Skin-Contact Les Collines Vineyard Sémillon (Walla Walla Valley). This is a one-of-a-kind wine in the state, fermented 14 days on skins and aged in clay amphorae and stainless steel. Aromas of lemon balm, herb, graphite and cream lead to a textured palate backed by bright, lemony acidity, with clay notes throughout. It's a statement for this producer and valley. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.

abv: 12.4%

Price: \$30

95



92 Yacoubian-Hobbs 2017 Rind Areni (Vayots Dzor). This deep garnet-colored wine has aromas of strawberry, pomegranate and lilac. It is bright on entry, with velvety tannins and flavors of black cherry, blackberry, aniseed and vanilla that culminate in a soft, spicy finish. Paul Hobbs Selections. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

96



92 François Lurton 2018 Hacienda Araucano Gran Araucano Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). The nose of this Cabernet gives way to red bell pepper, brick dust and baking spice aromas. A lush, deep and layered palate is jammy and thick, while flavors of peppery blackberry, fresh herbs and spicy oak arise. On the finish, coffee and mocha notes mix with ripe berry flavors. Drink through 2025. Winesellers, Ltd. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

97



90 Bodega Garzón 2020 Reserva Tannat (Uruguay). A bright ruby color and unencumbered aromas of cherry, red plum and light oak are inviting and easy to process. This is Uruguayan Tannat in its cleanest, most modern form. The palate feel is juicy and medium in

body. Light spice notes accent popping plum and raspberry flavors, while the finish is easygoing. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

98

91 Primus 2019 Carmenère (Apalta). Ripe plum and blackberry aromas come with ample oaky wood grain scents as well as hints of Band-Aid and latex. A flush palate is what Apalta is known for, while this warm-year Carmenère offers baked black fruit flavors touched up by chocolaty oak. A slightly sticky and grabby finish confirms the wine's heft. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$19

99



90 Peter Zemmer 2020 Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). Enticing scents of spring blossoms and summer orchard fruit waft out of the glass. On the polished, expressive palate, fresh acidity accompanies ripe yellow pear and apple before a white almond close. HB Wine Merchants. —K.O.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$17

100

90 Lubanzi 2020 Chenin Blanc (Swartland). There's a vibrant floral element to the bouquet of this pretty white, with supporting tones of freshly cut pear, peach and white melon. The palate is medium-full in feel, with a lovely rose-spiked peach accent that carries across the palate and is then refreshed by ample acidity. The finish ends clean and refreshing, with very good lingering vibrancy. Cape Venture Wine Co. **Editors' Choice.** —L.B.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$18